

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2509

Introduced by Assembly Member Fox

February 21, 2014

An act to amend Section 101.7 of the Streets and Highways Code, relating to highways.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2509, as introduced, Fox. Highways: exit information signs.

Existing law requires the Department of Transportation to adopt rules and regulations that allow the placement, near exits on freeways in rural areas, of information signs identifying specific roadside businesses or approved attractions. Existing law also requires the department to develop rules and regulations governing signs for approved attractions, as specified.

This bill would make nonsubstantive changes to these provisions.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 101.7 of the Streets and Highways Code
- 2 is amended to read:
- 3 101.7. (a) The department shall adopt rules and regulations
- 4 that allow the placement, near exits on freeways located in rural
- 5 areas, of information signs identifying specific roadside businesses
- 6 offering fuel, food, lodging, camping services, approved 24-hour
- 7 pharmacy services, or approved attractions, and that prescribe the
- 8 standards for those signs.

1 (b) The department shall provide equal access to all business
2 applicants.

3 (c) (1) (A) Except as provided in paragraph (2), the department
4 shall not approve the placement of a sign within an urban area
5 designated by the United States Bureau of the Census as having a
6 population of 5,000 or more.

7 (B) The department may not remove an information sign that
8 was placed before January 1, 2003, due solely to population growth
9 in an urban area that results in a population of 5,000 or more but
10 less than 10,000.

11 (2) (A) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the department, until
12 January 1, 2021, shall allow the placement of information signs
13 along State Highway Route 65 within, or at exits leading to, the
14 City of Lincoln.

15 (B) On or before January 1, 2020, the department shall report
16 to the ~~transportation committees of the Senate~~ *Committee on*
17 *Transportation and Housing*, and the *Assembly Committee on*
18 *Transportation*, on the implementation of this paragraph. The
19 report shall describe the implementation and any benefits of, or
20 concerns regarding, that implementation, and shall include
21 recommendations as to whether or not the period of this program
22 should be extended and whether or not the authorization for
23 information signs under this section should be expanded to urban
24 areas having a population of 5,000 or more.

25 (d) The information signs authorized in this section may be
26 placed near the freeway exits in addition to, or in lieu of, other
27 highway signs of the department, but not in lieu of on-premises
28 or off-premises highway oriented business signs and directional
29 signs.

30 (e) The department shall establish and charge a fee to place and
31 maintain information signs in an amount not less than 25 percent
32 above its estimated cost in placing and maintaining the information
33 signs. The department shall annually review the amount of that
34 fee and revise it as necessary. Funds derived from the imposition
35 of the fee, after deduction of the cost to the department for the
36 placement and maintenance of the information signs, shall be
37 available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, for safety roadside
38 rest purposes.

39 (f) The department shall incorporate the use of an “RV-friendly”
40 symbol on an information sign placed pursuant to this section for

1 a specific roadside business that meets criteria of the department
2 regarding sufficiency for recreational vehicles with respect to the
3 parking spaces and surfaces, vertical clearance, turning radius, and
4 entrances and exits of the facility. A specific roadside business
5 otherwise qualified for a sign pursuant to this section may qualify
6 for and request an “RV-friendly” symbol for that sign. The
7 department shall adopt rules and regulations for an “RV-friendly”
8 symbol consistent with this section as well as the Federal Highway
9 Administration’s Interim Approval for Addition of RV-friendly
10 Symbol to Specific Service Signs. The rules and regulations
11 adopted by the department shall include a provision for the roadside
12 business to acknowledge that overnight occupancy is not permitted
13 unless the roadside business is licensed as a special occupancy
14 park as defined in Section 18862.43 of the Health and Safety Code.
15 The department shall establish and charge an additional fee
16 pursuant to subdivision (e) to place and maintain the symbol.

17 (g) The department shall develop rules and regulations governing
18 signs for approved attractions, which shall include amusement
19 parks, botanical and zoological facilities, business districts and
20 main street communities, education centers, golf courses, historical
21 sites, museums, religious sites, resorts, ski areas, marinas, “u-pick”
22 farms and orchards, farmers’ markets, and wineries, viticulture
23 areas, and vineyards.